



LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 1983 (PRELIMINARY)

- PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information about these statistics*—contact Ms Susan Purcell on Canberra (062) 52 6503 or any of our State offices.
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MAIN FEATURES

Note: Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 13 below.

Participation in the labour force varies according to educational attainment—77.4 per cent of persons with post-school qualifications are in the labour force compared with 56.6 per cent of persons without post-school qualifications.

2,866,300 persons in the labour force (40.9 per cent) have a post-school qualification.

For persons not in the labour force, 836,700 (19.6 per cent) have a post-school qualification, of which 471,900 are females with trade or technical level qualifications.

In February 1983, the number of unemployed with post-school qualifications was 212,000 compared with 116,100 in February of the previous year. Over the same period the number of unemployed without post-school qualifications increased from 347,700 to 509,700. The unemployment rates for persons with different educational attainment in February 1982 and 1983 are:

	1982 (per cent)	1983
Persons with a degree or equivalent qualifications	3.9	5.0
Persons with trade, technical level qualifications	4.3	7.9
All persons with post-school qualifications	4.2	7.4
Persons without post-school qualifications	8.6	12.6
All persons	7.0	10.7

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In association with the February 1983 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia, persons aged fifteen years and over were asked about their highest educational qualifications. For persons with post-school qualifications, the information sought includes field of study, and for those who did not complete their schooling, it includes the age at which they left school.

2. During the two weeks beginning Monday 7 February, 1983, specially trained interviewers asked the questions of a sub-sample of 51,000 of the 71,000 respondents in the February labour force survey.

3. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in February 1979 have been published in *Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment, Australia* (6235.0).

4. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. Estimates shown are preliminary and may be revised. Further information which will be published as soon as possible is available on request.

Scope

5. The survey includes all civilians aged fifteen years and over except:

- (a) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- (b) overseas residents in Australia;
- (c) dependants of non-Australian defence forces personnel stationed in Australia;
- (d) students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of jails, reformatories etc.

Definitions

6. Definitions of the principal labour force categories appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0), but it should be noted that there are slight differences in the estimates for labour force categories shown in these publications. This is due to the different sizes of the samples used and the inability to obtain from a small number of persons the additional information required for the educational qualifications survey. Although the estimation procedures take account of these factors, estimates for some characteristics will be affected.

7. *Persons with a post-school qualification* are those who had left school and answer 'Yes' to the question: 'Since leaving school have you obtained a certificate, diploma, degree or any other qualification?'

8. *Classification of post-school qualifications.* Respondents indicate which one of the following groups best describes their highest qualification:

- (a) *Degree or equivalent:* a bachelor degree (including honours), a graduate or post-graduate diploma, masters degree or a doctorate;
- (b) *Trade, technical:* completion of an approved trade/technician apprenticeship or training course, other certificate or diploma in secretarial or business studies, administration, teaching, nursing, etc.;
- (c) *Other:* completion of other post-secondary education e.g. adult education, preparatory/bridging course or hobby course.

9. *Highest level of secondary school available* refers to the highest level of secondary schooling (or equivalent) offered by the education system at the time the respondent left school.

10. *Still at school.* Current school attendance is recorded only for persons aged fifteen to twenty years.

Comparability of the estimates

11. Educational attainment of persons not in the labour force is not available for the February 1979, 1980 and 1981 surveys which only covered persons in the labour force.

12. Estimates in this series are not strictly comparable with those from the population censuses due to differences in questions and coding methodology.

Reliability of the estimates

13. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *sampling error:* since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*. More information about this topic will be found in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). A table of estimated standard errors for this

survey follows these notes. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 25 per cent have not been shown in this publication, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable uses. Although figures for these small components can, in some cases, be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable.

- (b) *Non-sampling error:* inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

Related publications

14. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

Transition from Education to Work, Australia, May 1982 (6227.0)

15. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 13 above.

n.e.c. not elsewhere classified

.. not applicable

16. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates		Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate		Persons	Per cent of estimate
4,500	1,100	24.9	200,000	5,900	2.9
6,000	1,300	21.5	500,000	8,250	1.6
10,000	1,650	16.5	1,000,000	10,400	1.0
20,000	2,250	11.3	2,000,000	13,000	0.7
50,000	3,400	6.8	5,000,000	17,050	0.4
100,000	4,500	4.5			

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER(a) : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS, FEBRUARY 1983

Educational attainment	Number ('000)				Total	Participation rate	Unemployment rate
	Employed	Unemployed	In the labour force	Not in the labour force			
MALES							
With post-school qualifications	1,789.6	124.6	1,914.2	275.0	2,189.2	87.4	6.5
Degree or equivalent	386.9	14.5	401.4	42.4	443.7	90.5	3.6
Trade, technical level	1,368.6	106.5	1,475.1	226.4	1,701.4	86.7	7.2
Other	34.2	*	37.8	6.2	44.0	85.9	*
Without post-school qualifications	2,144.1	303.6	2,447.7	748.0	3,195.7	76.6	12.4
Attended highest level of secondary school available	487.0	59.0	546.1	109.3	655.4	83.3	10.8
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age—							
18 years or over	23.7	5.2	28.8	5.6	34.5	83.7	17.9
16 or 17 years	518.7	86.7	605.4	75.2	680.6	89.0	14.3
14 or 15 years	919.6	132.3	1,052.0	393.1	1,445.0	72.8	12.6
13 years or under	189.2	18.9	208.1	151.6	359.7	57.9	9.1
Total	1,651.3	243.0	1,894.3	625.5	2,519.8	75.2	12.8
Never attended school	5.7	*	7.3	13.2	20.5	35.5	*
Still at school	25.5	12.6	38.1	164.7	202.8	18.8	33.0
Total	3,959.2	440.8	4,400.0	1,187.7	5,587.7	78.7	10.0
FEMALES							
With post-school qualifications	864.6	87.4	952.0	561.7	1,513.7	62.8	9.2
Degree or equivalent	170.8	15.0	185.7	63.5	249.2	74.5	8.0
Trade, technical level	667.5	68.9	736.5	471.9	1,208.3	60.9	9.4
Other	26.3	*	29.8	26.4	56.2	53.1	*
Without post-school qualifications	1,393.4	206.0	1,599.4	2,351.9	3,951.3	40.5	12.9
Attended highest level of secondary school available	292.7	43.3	336.1	280.8	616.9	54.5	12.9
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age—							
18 years or over	15.4	*	19.1	15.4	34.5	55.3	*
16 or 17 years	374.2	63.0	437.2	369.6	806.8	54.2	14.4
14 or 15 years	627.9	85.0	712.8	1,352.2	2,065.1	34.5	11.9
13 years or under	79.3	9.9	89.2	306.0	395.2	22.6	11.1
Total	1,096.8	161.5	1,258.3	2,043.2	3,301.5	38.1	12.8
Never attended school	*	*	5.0	27.9	32.9	15.3	*
Still at school	37.8	12.5	50.3	160.4	210.7	23.9	24.8
Total	2,295.8	305.9	2,601.7	3,073.9	5,675.7	45.8	11.8
PERSONS							
With post-school qualifications	2,654.2	212.0	2,866.3	836.7	3,702.9	77.4	7.4
Degree or equivalent	557.6	29.5	587.1	105.8	693.0	84.7	5.0
Trade, technical level	2,036.1	175.4	2,211.5	698.2	2,909.8	76.0	7.9
Other	60.5	7.1	67.6	32.6	100.2	67.5	10.5
Without post-school qualifications	3,537.4	509.7	4,047.1	3,099.9	7,145.0	56.6	12.6
Attended highest level of secondary school available	779.8	102.4	882.2	390.1	1,272.3	69.3	11.6
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age—							
18 years or over	39.1	8.8	47.9	21.0	68.9	69.5	18.4
16 or 17 years	893.0	149.7	1,042.6	444.8	1,487.4	70.1	14.4
14 or 15 years	1,547.5	217.3	1,764.8	1,745.3	3,510.1	50.3	12.3
13 years or under	268.6	28.7	297.3	457.5	754.8	39.4	9.7
Total	2,748.1	404.5	3,152.6	2,668.7	5,821.3	54.2	12.8
Never attended school	9.5	*	12.3	41.1	53.4	23.1	*
Still at school	63.3	25.1	88.4	325.1	413.5	21.4	28.4
Total	6,255.0	746.7	7,001.7	4,261.6	11,263.4	62.2	10.7

(a) Excludes persons in institutions.

TABLE 2. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER(a): EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND AGE, FEBRUARY 1983
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	Age group (years)						
Educational attainment	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Total
MALES							
With post-school qualifications	27.9	247.2	625.7	545.4	325.3	417.6	2,189.2
Degree or equivalent	*	41.7	158.0	117.7	55.9	70.5	443.7
Trade, technical level	22.8	200.2	455.8	418.8	263.1	340.8	1,701.4
Other	5.1	5.3	12.0	9.0	6.3	6.3	44.0
Without post-school qualifications	408.8	414.4	580.5	498.2	427.2	866.6	3,195.7
Attended highest level of secondary school available	115.0	163.2	155.1	85.8	50.9	85.3	655.4
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age—							
18 years or over	*	6.4	11.6	4.9	*	5.7	34.5
16 or 17 years	162.4	137.8	167.8	89.3	48.0	75.3	680.6
14 or 15 years	126.7	102.5	225.1	257.7	246.0	487.0	1,445.0
13 years or under	*	4.6	19.3	57.8	74.4	202.1	359.7
Total	293.8	251.2	423.8	409.7	371.2	770.0	2,519.8
Never attended school	*	*	*	*	5.1	11.3	20.5
Still at school	202.5	*	..	..	..	..	202.8
Total	639.2	661.9	1,206.3	1,043.6	752.5	1,284.3	5,587.7
FEMALES							
With post-school qualifications	63.5	231.1	474.8	336.0	173.8	234.5	1,513.7
Degree or equivalent	*	36.6	105.7	60.1	22.2	24.3	249.2
Trade, technical level	59.0	187.6	358.2	260.6	143.2	199.7	1,208.3
Other	*	6.8	10.9	15.3	8.4	10.5	56.2
Without post-school qualifications	340.1	416.8	743.3	673.2	541.5	1,236.4	3,951.3
Attended highest level of secondary school available	114.9	131.1	132.5	76.2	50.0	112.2	616.9
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age—							
18 years or over	*	8.0	10.4	4.8	*	5.3	34.5
16 or 17 years	117.1	144.9	230.4	126.6	74.9	112.9	806.8
14 or 15 years	103.4	129.3	336.3	391.0	329.5	775.6	2,065.1
13 years or under	*	*	31.6	71.4	75.7	211.5	395.2
Total	225.0	285.7	608.7	593.7	483.0	1,105.2	3,301.5
Never attended school	*	*	5.3	8.4	8.4	19.0	32.9
Still at school	210.1	*	..	..	..	..	210.7
Total	613.7	648.6	1,218.1	1,009.2	715.2	1,470.9	5,675.7
PERSONS							
With post-school qualifications	91.4	478.3	1,100.6	881.4	499.1	652.1	3,702.9
Degree or equivalent	*	78.3	263.6	177.7	78.1	94.8	693.0
Trade, technical level	81.8	387.8	814.0	679.4	406.3	540.5	2,909.8
Other	9.3	12.2	22.9	24.3	14.7	16.8	100.2
Without post-school qualifications	748.9	831.2	1,323.8	1,171.4	968.6	2,103.0	7,147.0
Attended highest level of secondary school available	229.9	294.3	287.6	162.1	100.9	197.5	1,272.3
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age—							
18 years or over	6.4	14.3	22.0	9.6	5.7	10.9	68.9
16 or 17 years	279.5	282.7	398.2	215.9	122.9	188.2	1,487.4
14 or 15 years	230.0	231.7	561.5	648.7	575.6	1,262.6	3,510.1
13 years or under	*	8.2	50.9	129.2	150.1	413.5	754.8
Total	518.9	536.9	1,032.6	1,003.5	854.3	1,875.2	5,821.3
Never attended school	*	*	*	5.9	13.5	30.3	53.4
Still at school	412.6	*	..	..	..	..	413.5
Total	1,253.0	1,310.4	2,424.3	2,052.8	1,467.7	2,755.2	11,263.4

(a) Excludes persons in institutions.

TABLE 3. EMPLOYED PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND OCCUPATION, FEBRUARY 1983
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Occupation group	With post-school qualifications			Attended highest secondary level	Without post-school qualifications		Total (b)	Total (c)
	Degree or equivalent	Trade, technical level	Total (a)		Did not attend highest level of secondary school and left at age (years)			
					16 or over	15 or under		
Professional, technical and related workers	395.3	395.0	795.0	75.1	30.6	30.9	136.6	932.0
Administrative, executive and managerial	49.5	151.2	203.6	70.8	50.2	98.4	219.6	423.2
Clerical	55.8	297.4	369.3	258.4	217.6	239.6	715.6	1,093.8
Sales	16.6	120.7	144.4	90.7	110.3	188.5	389.9	564.7
Farmers, fishermen and forestry workers	10.5	89.4	105.9	50.6	77.9	219.3	348.9	461.2
Miners, quarrymen, etc.	*	9.2	11.6	*	4.5	14.6	22.5	34.1
Transport and communication	4.9	79.2	88.0	29.7	56.3	161.4	248.1	336.1
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	13.0	737.9	760.7	131.2	285.4	613.5	1,034.8	1,802.3
Service, sport and recreation	10.9	156.1	175.8	70.0	99.2	249.8	421.4	607.5
Total	557.6	2,036.1	2,654.2	779.8	932.0	1,816.1	3,537.4	6,255.0

(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (b) Includes persons who never attended school. (c) Includes persons aged 15 to 20 years still at school.

TABLE 4. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, FEBRUARY 1983

Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)	With post-school qualifications			Without post-school qualifications				
	Degree or equivalent	Trade, technical level	Total (a)	Attended highest secondary level	Did not attend highest level of secondary school and left at age (years)		Total (b)	Total (c)
					16 or over	15 or under		
— ' 000 —								
1 and under 4	5.9	33.6	40.6	14.8	17.9	30.1	62.8	108.9
4 " " 8	6.0	32.1	38.5	18.0	22.3	31.5	72.0	115.8
8 " " 13	6.1	31.8	38.4	23.1	29.2	31.8	84.4	129.0
13 " " 26	4.7	32.2	37.8	17.0	29.4	42.5	90.0	131.8
26 " " 52	*	21.9	26.4	15.7	25.8	42.3	84.3	113.2
52 and over	*	23.8	30.2	13.8	33.8	67.8	116.2	148.0
Total	29.5	175.4	212.0	102.4	158.5	246.0	509.7	746.7
— weeks —								
Average duration	22.0	23.0	23.4	24.5	32.6	40.1	34.6	30.9
Median duration	10.3	11.5	11.5	12.0	17.4	22.0	18.1	14.9

(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (b) Includes persons who never attended school. (c) Includes persons aged 15 to 20 years still at school.

